



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
4050 Crums Mill Road, Suite 203, Harrisburg, PA 17112

Results of a recent survey are contained in this release. You can also find it on our site at www.nass.usda.gov/pa/ and click on the Pennsylvania Publications link.

Contact: Kevin Pautler, 717-787-3904
nass-pa@nass.usda.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pennsylvania Agaricus Mushroom Production

HARRISBURG, PA, Aug 19, 2010 --- Pennsylvania growers led all states by producing 501.2 million pounds, or 64 percent of all U.S. Agaricus mushrooms sold during the 2009-2010 growing season. This is down 4 percent from last year's production according to the Pennsylvania Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Pennsylvania growers received, on average, 87.6 cents per pound for all Agaricus mushroom sales down one half cent from the previous year. Pennsylvania's Agaricus crop was valued at \$439 million, down 5 percent from the 2008-09 crop.

The Commonwealth mushroom producers sold 409 million pounds of Agaricus mushrooms for fresh market. Fresh market sales tallied \$388.3 million. In addition, Pennsylvania growers supplied 86 percent or 92 million pounds of Agaricus mushrooms sold in the U.S. for processing. Processing sales in Pennsylvania totaled \$50.7 million for the 2009-2010 season. Prices and value for mushroom sales are based on the average price that the producer receives at the point of first sale.

The 62 growers of Agaricus mushrooms in Chester County, Pennsylvania produced 351 million pounds, of Agaricus mushrooms, down 3 percent from the 2008-2009 growing season. This production was valued at \$308 million, down 1 percent from the 2008-2009 growing season. The growing area in Chester County was 11.5 million square feet, down 2 percent from the 2008-2009 growing season. Total fillings were 53.5 million square feet, down 4 percent from the 2008-2009 growing season.

Nationally, Agaricus mushroom volume of sales totaled 778 million pounds, down 3 percent from the 2008-2009 season. Pennsylvania accounted for 64 percent of the total volume of sales and second-ranked California contributed 14 percent. The value of the Agaricus crop was estimated at \$886 million dollars, down 3 percent from the 2008-2009 season. Brown mushrooms, including Portabello and Crimini varieties, accounted for 120 million pounds, up 8 percent from last season. Brown mushrooms accounted for 15 percent of the total Agaricus volume sold. The brown mushroom crop value of sales for the 2009-2010 season is \$168 million dollars, 19 percent of the total Agaricus value.

Value of sales for commercially grown specialty mushrooms in 2009-2010 is \$39.1 million, down 19 percent from the 2008-2009 season. A specialty grower is defined as having at least 200 natural wood logs in production or some commercial indoor growing area, and \$200 dollars or more in sales. The average price per pound received by growers, at \$2.56, is down 48 cents from the previous season.

Growers produced 30.0 million pounds of mushrooms that were certified organic during the 2009-2010 growing season, 28 percent below 2008-2009 of 42.0 million. Out of the 30.0 million pounds, 17.0 million pounds, or 57 percent of the total were sold as certified organic mushrooms, while the rest were sold without the certified organic label. This compares with 12.4 million pounds, or 30 percent sold as certified organic during the 2008-2009 crop year. Agaricus mushrooms accounted for 74 percent of the mushrooms sold as certified organic, while all specialty mushrooms made up the remainder. The total certified organic sales of all mushrooms represent 2 percent of the 2009-2010 total mushroom sales. The number of certified organic mushroom growers totaled 51, up seven growers from the previous season. These growers represent 16 percent of the 312 total mushroom producers.

- # -

Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at www.nass.usda.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.